



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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21 SEPTEMBER 1966

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1. South Vietnam

Now that reporting from the provinces is almost complete, the original impression that the elections were reasonably honest and well run has been borne out. There was scattered small-scale padding of voting statistics but no evidence of rigging in favor of particular candidates. In fact, a number of candidates with official backing were soundly defeated.

The Italian ambassador in Saigon, acting as dean of the diplomatic corps, has thanked the foreign minister for courtesies extended to diplomatic observers and has commented on the order and freedom of the elections.

2. Communist China

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3. France

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4. Soviet Union

The Soviets seem to be setting up for more extended-range ICBM tests, probably of the SS-9. Three of their instrumentation ships are now deployed in the 4,500-mile impact area in the Pacific used for tests of this missile in late spring.

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5. Panama

A new series of extremist-led disturbances has begun.

Monday, National Guard units used tear gas to disperse 1,000 students demanding the release of several student leaders.

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Arnulfo Arias and his Panamenista Party have decided to join with the students to foment trouble for the Robles administration.

Continued demonstrations would weaken Robles' position during the National Assembly session scheduled to open on 1 October, and ultimately jeopardize his plans to deal with the canal treaties.

6. Brazil

A wave of student demonstrations in most of the principal cities threatens to mushroom into a major embarrassment to the government. Yesterday it took police several hours to disperse a student protest march in Sao Paulo, held in defiance of a government ban.

Agitation over minor issues began early this month. Inept action by university authorities and heavy-handedness by the security forces, who tend to regard student political activity as insurrection, alienated many of the students who normally favor the government.

The illegal National Union of Students has called for further demonstrations tomorrow, and political opponents of the government will try to keep the pot boiling.

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7. French Somaliland

De Gaulle has responded to the embarrassing riots during his visit to French Somaliland by announcing it can have a referendum on independence before next July.

This will stir up more trouble between Ethiopia and Somalia, both of whom are eager to swallow up the place. Somaliland's population is about half and half ethnic Somalis and Ethiopians, and the country lies across Ethiopia's only rail access to the sea.

Haile Selassie said categorically last week that French Somaliland is an integral part of Ethiopia, while the Somali Government has publicly warned that any Ethiopian sorties into the territory would mean war.

8. Nigeria

Supreme Commander Gowon has practically directed the constitutional conference to adopt his plan for a strong central government. He indicated that the army would not accept the loose federal arrangements most delegates seemed to favor.

When the conference finally convened yesterday, delegations from two of the four regions endorsed his idea, and one was opposed. The key Eastern delegation was noncommittal, however, and its tribal leaders may resist the plan by seceding--a move which Gowon says he will oppose with force. Thus Nigeria's future is as cloudy as ever.

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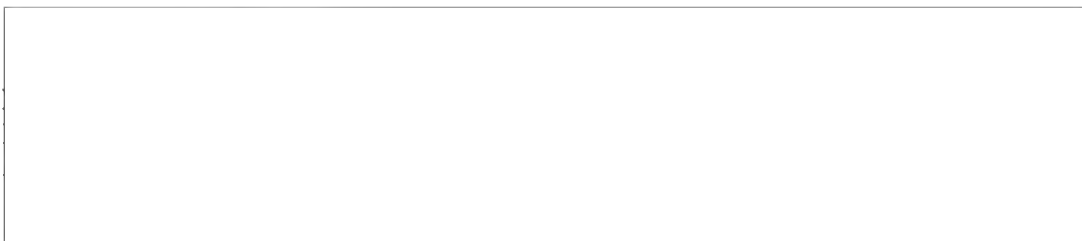


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